

LASZLO TROCSANYI

Minister of Justice of Hungary

Sean Cleary

László, I am going to come directly to you on that for two reasons: one is because Jean-François has posed this as a European challenge and has recognized the diversity of the individual circumstances among different states within the European landscape. I would very much like to hear your perspective on this.

László TRÓCSÁNYI

Mr. President, when referring to multiculturalism in connection with this subject, I need to start with a sentence from Chantal Delsol: “Borders first mean the existence of a society that is found within”. This means that in order to talk about multiculturalism, refugees and immigration, we must talk about societies. I am also referring to the Hungarian society here. I think it's very important to consider the theory of circles of responsibility. For us in Central Europe, there is a certain sense of responsibility that is very strong towards the Balkan countries. When there was war in Yugoslavia, Hungary's hospitality was perfectly well known: 40,000 people arrived on our territory. I understand full well that Belgium has more responsibility towards the Congo than towards, for example, Burkina Faso. As for France, it has more responsibility towards Burkina Faso than towards Angola. This means that the sense of responsibility in society is a very important element when we talk about migration, because, while migration is a known phenomenon, we also have to look at the society in which these people are arriving. This is why it is very important for me personally to stress the sense of responsibility.

In Central Europe, does there exist the same sense of responsibility as in Western Europe? Allow me to speak openly. First of all, Central Europe remained closed for 45 years behind the Iron Curtain. How much responsibility does it hold in the destabilisation of different regions?

Secondly, the export of democracy is also a very important factor in my view. In Central Europe, have we participated in the export of democracy to the destabilised regions? No, that's not the case at all.

With regard to the third factor, let me also tell you that the former colonial empires may not have been sufficiently sensitive to the fair redistribution of wealth created during the so-called golden years following the Second World War.

We have to look at Central Europe and Hungary. In this instance, we see that there is a philosophy behind things, and behind the way we see migration today. Of course, beyond that, we can go much further and examine the reaction of the Hungarian government in different areas. Of course, I can talk later on about this, but I will start by presenting how we look at migration, the causes of migration and the sensitivity of Central Europe. Solidarity is very important, of course, I can talk about it later, but I don't want to monopolise the floor. I just wanted to express that in Central Europe, the view on migration is a little different than elsewhere in Europe.